

17 January 1977

President Ford today awarded the National Security Medal to George Bush, Director of Central Intelligence, at a ceremony in the Oval Office at the White House.

The citation accompanying the medal noted that Mr. Bush, who became Director of Central Intelligence January 30, 1976, was "directly responsible for major improvements in the allocation of intelligence resources and for increasing the responsiveness of the intelligence product to the needs of the policymakers and operating officials of the Government."

The citation also said that Mr. Bush's "effectiveness as a spokesman, both within and outside the Government, did much to restore America's confidence in its intelligence agencies."

The National Security Medal was established by President Truman in 1953 to be awarded for "distinguished achievement or outstanding contribution in the field of intelligence relating to national security."

The citation said "the role of Director of Central Intelligence has many facets and George Bush was outstanding in each, as adviser to the President, as leader of the U.S. Intelligence Community, as spokesman to the Congress and as operating head of the Central Intelligence Agency."

The citation concluded: "The achievements of George Bush in improving the responsiveness and overall effectiveness of the Intelligence Community and the Central Intelligence Agency reflect public service of the highest order. His influence will long be felt as one of major significance to the accomplishment of the foreign intelligence mission of the U.S. Government.

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